

of ballistic missile attack should include protection for Alaska, Hawaii, the territories and the commonwealths of the United States on the same basis as the contiguous States." Language from this resolution was soon adopted into National Defense Authorization (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 1999 and enacted into law. This language helped to set the stage for the U.S. to withdraw from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, thereby allowing us to build our nation's first homeland missile defense system at Fort Greely, Alaska—a location which would protect ALL fifty states.

From that point on, Don continued to strongly support missile defense. He fought for defense budgets that were driven by strategy, not defense strategies that were driven budgets. For decades, he ensured critical military construction for our missile defense systems—located at Fort Greely, Clear Air Force Station, and Eareckson Air Station—expeditiously passed the House and were fully funded.

Then in 2017, amidst a resurgent North Korean threat, Don Young again championed our cause. He—along with Senator Dan Sullivan (the bill's original author)—sponsored the "Advancing America's Missile Defense Act of 2017" and led the charge to include it into the House's FY 2018 NDAA. Critically, this bill authorized an increase to our nation's Ground-based Interceptor capacity by 50% and it laid the groundwork for the construction of a new missile field at Fort Greely—Missile Field 4—to house that added capacity. During the debate on his amendment, the Congressman stated,

"I believe this reckless and calculated behavior by the North Korean regime speaks volumes to the importance of the strategically placed U.S. missile defense capabilities, including the Ground-based interceptors at Fort Greely, AK and other elements of the nation's ballistic missile defense system. These forces guard this nation and are the first responders against weapons of mass destruction."

He was right then and his words ring even more true today.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today is a solemn day.

Today, in the National Statuary Hall of the U.S. Capitol, we paid tribute to the Dean of the House of Representatives, the late Congressman Don Young. And how fitting is it for Congressman Young to lie in state in National Statuary Hall. Much like this hall, Don Young is an icon—a pillar—in the history of the House of Representatives.

Longevity as an elected official isn't a given—it has to be earned. And for 49 straight years, Don Young earned the honor of representing Alaska in Congress, which he considered the privilege of a lifetime. Congressman Young loved Alaska, and Alaska loved him. By the end of his tenure, not only was he the longest-serving politician in Alaska's history, but also the longest-serving Republican Member of the House of Representatives in U.S. history.

Now, you may not think that a nurse from Texas and a frontiersman from Alaska would have a lot in common. And for the most part, you'd be right. But that never stopped us from working together when it meant the betterment of our constituents. We partnered on legislation that provided Pell Grants to Gold Star Families. We led an annual letter advocating for increased funding for the Innovative Ap-

proaches to Literacy (IAL) program. We spent long days and late nights together in the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee hearings. The list goes on and on.

We also had the opportunity to travel the world together on CODELs. He sponsored valuable and worthwhile trips that I never hesitated to sign up for. And the farther away we got from Washington, the closer we became.

My thoughts and prayers are with his beloved wife, Anne, with whom I had the pleasure of getting to know over the years, as well as his children, grandchildren, and all those who loved him. He will be dearly missed.

Mr. NEHLS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Congressman for all of Alaska, the 45th Dean of the House, and my mentor and friend—Representative Don Young.

Don was a soldier, a riverboat captain, and a teacher—but his true calling was serving and representing the good people of Alaska.

Throughout his 49 years in Congress, he was an icon and mentor to countless Members. When I first arrived here, Don was one of the first Members I met. In the short time I had with him, he taught me so much about the House and about being a true servant.

Don's love of his family and the people of Alaska was rivaled only by his love of the land itself. He took countless members and staff to his beloved state to show them the pristine natural wonder of his state.

This summer he was going to take me on a working trip to Alaska—and one of my great regrets in this body will forever be never getting to go with him.

Rest in peace, my friend.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. FLETCHER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2954.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

WOMEN OF THE REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS MOVEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentlewoman from Texas (Mrs. FLETCHER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. FLETCHER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to give all members 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mrs. FLETCHER. Madam Speaker, this night, and this Women's History Month, together with my colleagues in the Pro-Choice Caucus, I rise in support of the women of the reproductive rights movement. Women who stood

up, spoke out, and reached out to protect the rights of women in this country to determine whether and when to become parents. Of course, this work required and requires to this day, a broad, bold coalition of people, people whose work has necessitated tremendous sacrifice and has resulted in tremendous progress.

Some of them were denied access to contraception, abortion care, and healthcare, and agreed to become the face of legal challenges. Some of them were strategists who shaped the arguments that became the fabric of legal protections for reproductive rights.

Some of them were healthcare providers who saw the tragic consequences of the denial of those rights. As a lawyer, I have known some of their names through the landmark cases that bear them—Griswold v. Connecticut, Roe v. Wade, and more.

Tonight, we celebrate them, we celebrate their courage, their commitment, and their purpose in articulating, advocating, and ensuring the rights to equality, privacy, and dignity that their work represents.

Before yielding to my colleagues who are here this evening in person and in spirit, I will start with one of them who holds a special place in this work and in my own life. As a woman from Texas, it has always been a source of great pride that some fearless Texas women have been leaders in this fight.

In the late 1960s, a group of Texas women came together to challenge our State's ban on abortion. They found as their lawyer and lifelong advocate, a young woman named Sarah Weddington, who is pictured here behind me. A recent law school graduate, Sarah Weddington was working for the University of Texas at that time. Perhaps not surprisingly, although she had good grades and a law degree, she had a hard time finding a job in a law firm. But she was working to help people solve their problems in Austin, and this group knew she would be a good advocate.

I heard her tell the story once that when the group came to see her, they told her that they thought the best way to deal with the law was to challenge the law itself. She said that she had a law degree, but she really hadn't practiced in Federal court before. She wasn't a courtroom lawyer, and she hadn't handled a case like this one. So she told them she thought they should get someone with more experience.

She recalled to us they asked her, Well, what would you charge us to do this lawsuit?

And she said, Oh, I will do it for free.

And they said, You are our lawyer.

And that is how she got the case.

Sarah called her law school classmate, Linda Coffee, and they agreed to work on the case together. Many UT law students and professors helped Sarah and Linda with the case. They heard from women, of course, and from doctors who treated women who had had complications from illegal abortions and women who had died from illegal abortions.